

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1           1.    For use in a digital cable set-top box capable of being  
2   coupled to a television set, a removable circuit apparatus capable  
3   of being inserted into a point of deployment (POD) host interface  
4   associated with said digital cable set-top box, said removable  
5   circuit apparatus comprising:

6                a point of deployment (POD) module interface capable of  
7   mating with said POD host interface; and

8                a RF transceiver coupled to said POD module interface  
9   capable of receiving an incoming baseband signal from said digital  
10 cable set-top box, upconverting said baseband signal to an outgoing  
11 RF signal, and wirelessly transmitting said outgoing RF signal to  
12 at least one wireless communication device proximate said digital  
13 cable set-top box and further capable of wirelessly receiving an  
14 incoming RF signal from said at least one wireless communication  
15 device, downconverting said incoming RF signal to an outgoing  
16 baseband signal, and transmitting said outgoing baseband signal to  
17 said digital cable set-top box.

2. The removable circuit apparatus as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said incoming baseband signal and said incoming RF signal comprise Internet protocol (IP) data packets.

3. The removable circuit apparatus as set forth in Claim 2 further comprising:

a data processor coupled to said POD module interface and capable of transmitting to said digital cable set-top box at least one of an audio signal and a video signal capable of being displayed on a screen of said television set; and

a memory coupled to said data processor capable of storing a user POD application program executable by said data processor, where in said user POD application is operable to cause said data processor to control operation of said RF transceiver.

4. The removable circuit apparatus as set forth in Claim 3 wherein said data processor is capable of receiving user input signals from said digital cable set-top box.

1           5.    The removable circuit apparatus as set forth in Claim 4  
2    wherein said user input signals comprise infrared signals detected  
3    by an infrared sensor associated with said digital cable set-top  
4    box.

1           6.    The removable circuit apparatus as set forth in Claim 3  
2    further comprising a user interface coupled to said data processor  
3    capable of receiving user inputs from a user input device coupled  
4    to said user interface.

1           7.    The removable circuit apparatus as set forth in Claim 6  
2    wherein said user input device comprises a keyboard.

1           8.    The removable circuit apparatus as set forth in Claim 6  
2    wherein said user input device comprises a mouse.

1           9.    The removable circuit apparatus as set forth in Claim 3  
2    further comprising a disk storage device capable of storing said  
3    user POD application program.

1           10. The removable circuit apparatus as set forth in Claim 3  
2 further comprising a disk storage device capable of storing at  
3 least one of audio files, video files, graphics files, and text  
4 files associated with said user POD application program.

1           11. The removable circuit apparatus as set forth in Claim 3  
2 wherein said user POD application program further comprises a video  
3 game program.

1           12. The removable circuit apparatus as set forth in Claim 1  
2 wherein said user POD application program further comprises an e-  
3 mail program.

1           13. For use in a digital cable set-top box capable of being  
2 coupled to a television set, a removable circuit apparatus capable  
3 of being inserted into a point of deployment (POD) host interface  
4 associated with said digital cable set-top box, said removable  
5 circuit apparatus comprising:

6           a point of deployment (POD) module interface capable of  
7 mating with said POD host interface; and

8           a RF transmitter coupled to said POD module interface  
9 capable of receiving an incoming baseband signal from said digital  
10 cable set-top box, upconverting said baseband signal to an outgoing  
11 RF signal, and wirelessly transmitting said outgoing RF signal to  
12 at least one wireless communication device proximate said digital  
13 cable set-top box.

1           14. The removable circuit apparatus as set forth in Claim 13  
2 wherein said incoming baseband signal comprises Internet protocol  
3 (IP) data packets.

1           15. The removable circuit apparatus as set forth in Claim 14  
2 further comprising:

3           a data processor coupled to said POD module interface and  
4 capable of transmitting to said digital cable set-top box at least  
5 one of an audio signal and a video signal capable of being  
6 displayed on a screen of said television set; and

7           a memory coupled to said data processor capable of  
8 storing a user POD application program executable by said data  
9 processor, wherein said user POD application is operable to cause  
10 said data processor to control operation of said RF transmitter.

1           16. The removable circuit apparatus as set forth in Claim 15  
2 wherein said data processor is capable of receiving user input  
3 signals from said digital cable set-top box.

1           17. The removable circuit apparatus as set forth in Claim 16  
2 wherein said user input signals comprise infrared signals detected  
3 by an infrared sensor associated with said digital cable set-top  
4 box.

1           18. The removable circuit apparatus as set forth in Claim 15  
2 further comprising a user interface coupled to said data processor  
3 capable of receiving user inputs from a user input device coupled  
4 to said user interface.

1           19. The removable circuit apparatus as set forth in Claim 18  
2 wherein said user input device comprises a keyboard.

1           20. The removable circuit apparatus as set forth in Claim 18  
2 wherein said user input device comprises a mouse.

1           21. The removable circuit apparatus as set forth in Claim 14  
2 wherein said IP data packets comprise at least one of AM radio  
3 baseband signals and FM radio baseband signals.